

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

It is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered in the above-referenced application. New claims 26-27 are drawn to methods/a process of manufacturing a substrate/an organic electroluminescent display device and the product prepared by the process. No new matter is added.

Provisional Election of Claims Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.142

I. Applicants provisionally elect **Group I (claims 1-16 and new claims 26-27)** in response to the preliminary restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action.

II. Applicants Traverse the Requirement

Insofar as Group II (claims 17-25) is concerned, it is believed that claims 17-25 are so closely related to elected claims 1-16 and 26-27 that they should remain in the same application. The elected claims 1-16 and 26-27 are directed to methods/a process of manufacturing a substrate/an organic electroluminescent display device and a product of said process and claims 17-25 are drawn to an organic electroluminescent display device. There have been no references cited to show any necessity for requiring restriction and, in fact, it is believed that the Examiner would find references containing both method/process/product and product claims in the same field of technology. While it is noted that the Examiner has identified different classifications for the product and method/process/product claims, it is believed that classification is not conclusive on the question of restriction. It is believed, moreover, that evaluation of both sets of claims would not provide an undue burden upon the Examiner at this time in comparison with the additional expense and delay to Applicants in having to protect the additional subject matter recited by the Group II claims by filing a divisional application. MPEP §803 sets forth the criteria for restriction between patentably distinct inventions. (A) indicates that the inventions must be independent (see MPEP §802.01, §806.04, §808.01 or distinct as claimed (see MPEP §806.05-806.05(i)); and (B) indicates that there must be a serious burden on the Examiner if restriction is required (see MPEP §803.02, §806.04 – §806.04(i), §808.01(a) and §808.02). The Examiner has not set forth why there would be a serious burden if restriction is required.

III. Conclusion

Upon review of references involved in this field of technology, when considering that

claims 17-25 are directed to an organic electroluminescent display device, and elected claims 1-16 and 26-27 are directed to methods/a process of manufacturing a substrate/an organic electroluminescent display device and the product of said process, and when all of the other various facts are taken into consideration, it is believed that upon reconsideration of the Examiner's initial restriction requirement, all of the pending claims should be examined in the subject application.

In view of the foregoing amendments, arguments and remarks, all claims are deemed to be allowable and this application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our deposit account number 19-3935.

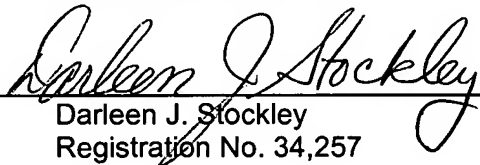
Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By:


Darleen J. Stockley
Registration No. 34,257

1201 New York Ave, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501